

# Shepherd's Journal

C H U R C H   O F   T H E   G O O D   S H E P H E R D

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Thank you notes listed on page 4

## **PASTOR'S NOTES**

A few days ago, Suzanne and I were invited to Morgantown to share in a prayer meeting (with dinner to follow!) Carol and Abby had facilitated the invitation and we were greeted by the young family who had included us all in their fellowship.

Prayer time began with Scripture, which was read in an atmosphere of deep reverence, punctuated occasionally with an "Amen" from the participants. Even the children quietly bowed their heads and listened respectfully.

Afterwards we joined in a meal that celebrated the goodness of God, as we enjoyed home-cooked vegetables, meat and desserts. It seemed as if everyone present made an effort to smile and greet us, their guests. While some of the young, single men filled plates to take home, others started washing pots, pans, and dishes.

As we stepped out into the moonlit evening, we said goodbye to sleepy children and made plans with their parents to get together again soon. Then we walked from the mosque to our cars, giving thanks to God, who loves all his children.

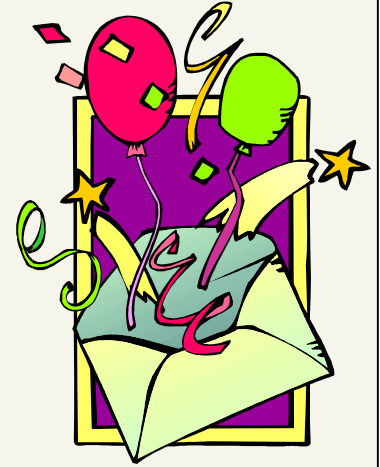
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## S E P T E M B E R B I R T H D A Y S

<b><u>September 1</u></b> Suzy Mitchell	<b><u>September 11</u></b> James Corrothers	<b><u>September 23</u></b> Kathy Green
<b><u>September 3</u></b> Greg Isner Barbara Hunt	<b><u>September 14</u></b> Nathan Foster	<b><u>September 24</u></b> Sheryl Isner
<b><u>September 4</u></b> Debbi Nestor Kent Harman	<b><u>September 17</u></b> Kelsey Stewart Gary Gelhausen	<b><u>September 25</u></b> Bill Whitescarver
<b><u>September 6</u></b> Virginia Peters Jim Brown I Suzanne Coffman	<b><u>September 18</u></b> Tudie Shaffer Theresa Barlow	<b><u>September 26</u></b> Alan Smith
<b><u>September 7</u></b> Cassie Stewart	<b><u>September 23</u></b> Matt Pauley Suzette Hungerford	<b><u>September 28</u></b> Alex Coffman
		<b><u>September 30</u></b> Jared Jenkins Stephanie Sinsel



***Heifer Project - Reminder*** - As you celebrate your birthday, think of those that are less fortunate by placing 1 penny for each year of your age in the Birthday Church. The wooded church is located in the Narthex of our church. Happy Birthday, Nurture Committee

## S E P T E M B E R A N N I V E R S A R I E S

<b><u>September 1st</u></b> Cathy & Roger McDaniel Daniel & Suzette Hungerford	<b><u>September 15th</u></b> Lynn & Bill Smith	<b><u>September 23rd</u></b> Alan & Laurie Smith
<b><u>September 6th</u></b> Allison & Victor Iapalucci	<b><u>September 16th</u></b> Jim & Nancy Work	<b><u>September 30th</u></b> Meredith & Louie Stach

## S E P T E M B E R S C H E D U L E O F E V E N T S

<i>September 3 - Teen MOPS 5:30</i>	<i>September 21 - Nurture Committee 5:00</i>
<i>September 5 - Annual Church Picnic 12:00</i>	<i>Finance Committee 6:30</i>
<i>September 6 - Church Office Closed</i>	<i>Administrative Council 7:30</i>
<i>Trustee Committee Meeting 7:30</i>	<i>September 28 - Taylor Co. Parish Meeting</i>
<i>September 9 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30</i>	<i>@ Mt. Pleasant UMC 7:00</i>
<i>September 12 - Little Lambs &amp; Jr. Youth 6:00</i>	
<i>Middle &amp; Senior Youth 6:00</i>	
<i>Children Choir 6:30</i>	
<i>Hallelujahs 7:00</i>	

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FLOCK - CONVERSATIONS WITH CARLA

This month I talked to JoAnna Pratt. She grew up in Grafton across from the East End School. Her parents are Ruth and Robert McCartney and her sister is Kay Toth. Joanna graduated from Grafton High School and went on to Beauty School. She remembers the day that President Kennedy died. Her mother walked over and told the people in the school. Helen Blackburn was her teacher and sent her home for the rest of the day. During her junior year in high school girls were allowed to start wearing dressy pantsuits to school instead of dresses. During her senior year the girls started wearing jeans to school.

She met Mike when she was out for the evening with her friend, Debbie Kines. Mike was in the Army when they got married, and they moved to Fort Hood, Texas after the wedding. Their daughter, Lacy, was born while they were there. Lacy is now a K-9 handler for the FBI and works out of Clarksburg.

JoAnna has had several different jobs: being a hairdresser at Raphale's that was downtown, working at Heck's, and while they were in Texas she worked at a department store. After Mike and JoAnna moved back to West Virginia they owned a business, A1 Septic Tank Service and she did all the bookwork. She later owned A-Z Hats and Tees in downtown Grafton for five years. That is when I first met her. Later she worked at BB&T for 3 ½ years. JoAnna is now working for RecCare, where she helps her niece, Kara.

All of her memories are special, but the memories of her

mother are her favorite memories. One time when she was babysitting for her nephew, Cole, she heard him screaming in the backyard. He yelled out "What is that noise?" The noise was the neighbor's rooster. She said that she laughs about it to this day. Her favorite food is hot dogs with the works.

One of her favorite possessions is her prayer blanket. She received the first blanket that we tied on as a congregation. She was never so surprised in her life as when Pastor Bert brought it to her. It has become one of the most important things to her, because she was dealing with cancer at the time. Mom (Leah Powell) was talking to her on the phone before she went to the hospital for her surgery. JoAnna told Mom that she was going to take the prayer blanket into surgery with her. Mom told her that they wouldn't let her have it in surgery, but she could ask the hospital staff to cut off a piece of the fringe and tape it to her hand. JoAnna explained to the hospital staff what the prayer blanket was and how important it was to her. They got a sterile bag for the blanket and it went into surgery with her. It was on her bed the entire time she was in the hospital. When she came home she carried it everywhere with her. She later found a charm that has a capsule in it, cut off a small piece of the fringe and now has a part of her prayer blanket everywhere that she goes.

Her father, Robert, made the wonderful wooden nativity that is on the church lawn every Christmas. JoAnna traced all of the pieces on the wood and did the detail painting on the figures. Robert hopes that the church continues to do maintenance on the pieces by painting and fixing them when needed.

JoAnna said that the first time she met Bert, was an interesting experience. She was not attending church on a regular basis at the time. Kara was getting tubes in her ears and JoAnna was in the waiting room while Kay was with Kara. A man came in with a small gift bag and sat down diagonally across from her. Kay came out and started talking to him. It was Bert with a small gift that Alex had made for Kara. JoAnna said that she was glad that she was not reading the trashy novel that she had with her since the minister was sitting across from her.

Her favorite Bible passage is 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13 about faith, hope and love. She likes this passage because it talks about the kind of love that is supposed to be in your life.

*"One of her favorite possessions is her prayer blanket."*

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

Nursery workers need to arrive at 10:30 to receive children. Guidelines are posted in the narthex and outside the nursery door. Weeks can be traded with other volunteers if a conflict arises.

September 5 - Julie & Sarah Reneau

September 12 - Brighton Kunce & Emily Moon

September 19 - Linda McBee & Stella Hawk

September 26 - Tom & Sheila Copeland

## **SOLIDER CARE PACKAGES**

We are currently in need of new addresses for our service men and women. If you have an addresses please call Leah Powell at 304-265-0572 or the church office at 304-265-1705.

## **CHURCH PICNIC**

We will be having our Annual Church Picnic on September 6th after worship services. The church will supply the meat and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a Covered Dish. We hope that you will join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and fun.



## **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

Little Lambs & Jr. Youth will begin meeting Sunday, September 12 @ 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir will have its' first rehearsal following Jr. Youth @ 6:30 p.m. Hallelujahs will begin that evening @ 7:00 p.m. Little Lambs and Jr. Youth are for ages 3 to 4th grade. Children's Choir is open for ages 5 to 12 and children of all ages are welcome to join our Praise Dance group, the Hallelujahs. Middle and Senior Youth will also meet that night at 6:00p.m.

## **FALL FESTIVAL**

Sunday, October 24th we'll have our Annual Fall Festival. We will begin @ 4:00 p.m. with food, games and crafts and end with a hayride. All children are invited to attend: Good Shepherd kids, VBS kids, community kids, friends and family! Come enjoy a fun Fall afternoon!

## **THANK YOU**

Dear Reverend Coffman, Enclosed find a check which represents a bequest stipulated under the provisions of the will of Grace Marie Williams.

Thank you for the love and kindness you've shown her. She appreciated it so very much.

I also want to thank you and your church family for the love and prayers for Brogan and the kindness you've shown us. Respectfully, Luann Raddish.

## **OX ROAST**

It is time for the Fall Ox Roast. On Sunday, October 17th from noon to 6:00 p.m.; the Mountaineer Area Council will host the Fall Ox Roast. Advance tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids under 12. There will also be a drawing for two Centennial Golden Boy Rifles and a Centennial Lithograph. Please call Arnold Kuhl for tickets at 304-265-3972.

The following letter was received from Wesley & Ginny Wolfe's daughter in response to a military care package from our church.

Hello way back there!!!

I thought you might like to know a bit about this place so far from home. I am crammed onto a small compound, one of several in the area. I live in a converted conex container sharing with another person...tight, tight, tight quarters. The US Embassy is the equivalent of about 8 short city blocks away. I've managed to network, strictly by accident not due to any skill, and find a couple of folks who work there who have given me invites to use the pool. Yes, the State Dept has a pool. We work 10 hrs a day Saturday - Thursday. Fridays are 4 hour days so that is my afternoon of respite at the pool surrounded by distant majestic barren mountains.

I work as a Contracting Officer, the only people other than Congress that can obligate the US dollar. Currently I'm working a \$99 million contract and several others from building airfields, Army/Police training and housing centers, to installing search lights to ferret out the bad guys. Before you go into a coronary not all funds are your tax dollars; some come from Afghanistan, some from other countries.

Weather here is tropical. No humidity, high 80s - low 90s daytime. Evening can get chilly in the high 70s to low 80s. There is usually a slight to moderate beach like breeze. I'll be heading back to Virginia in October. Whether I make it back to WV is still a question. I'm having work done on my house and need to be there for that.

We had a small PX on the next compound but it is trying to meet the needs of nearly 4,000 of us. The shelves are mainly empty. The candy that was in the care package is a big hit with those I've shared it with. That's what we do, share.

I'm lucky to have such a great support system at home, many here don't have that so those of us who can become the encouragement for those who don't have it. We wear military uniforms except on our time off. We hang out in our small area. If you are interested in seeing some pictures go to Facebook, look up my page.

The US, NATO and Allies are doing good things here regardless of what the news may tell you. Afghanistan is different than Iraq in that there is no infrastructure, no electricity, no running water, and no way to keep warm. At one time this country was known for its grapes and roses. The Russian invasion devastated everything. The Russians destroyed everything of value. After the invasion, the Taliban began to get a hold. They had the guns. Remember that when folks back home try to take yours away.

With the arrival of the good guys the repairing buildings, infrastructure, and commerce began. Shops are open again and doing business. When you can't feed your family you will do and follow anyone. We (I mean all forces here) are working with the locals, teaching them how to build, not our way, their way. (We made that mistake in Iraq. We built some things that the Iraqis will have trouble maintaining. It's called Lessons Learned.) We have opened the Universities again. Men and women are in classes again to learn Engineering among other things. Many children are back in school but there are still others who make bracelets to sell in the street as they have no water or food. It is heartbreaking. I have not bought any bracelets but for anyone who might want some just let me know. They are simple but pretty.

I volunteer thru the Chaplain's Office to sort donations once a week which are taken to villages and distributed. The need is great. Last week we sorted for orphans. School supplies, coloring books, crayons, toys, and candy. I hate the candy part as I don't think there is a toothbrush in the whole country, but one thing at a time I guess.

There is much that makes no sense in their thought process far too much to go into here but with prayer, hope and determination I believe we can bring positive change. It won't happen tomorrow, but I believe it can happen. Working side by side with people who get along, smile and are kind goes a long way.

So when you watch the news and they work to convince you that you should not support the efforts here keep in mind that this is the hot bed of evil intentions. We either deal with it here or we will deal with it on our own borders. We make mistakes but I guarantee that the life you enjoy now is because of the efforts of all those living and who've died who have had the courage to stand for something.

So that is a glimpse of life in this country of war and struggle. Not very glamorous but certainly an adventure and learning experience both professionally and personally. It is here that I share a bond with others who live in a conex, share bathrooms, gotten sick, worn uniforms, fought homesickness, laughed together and learned to adapt with people from all over the great country we call home. What an honor this is. I promise I'll do the best I can here to represent us with integrity and honor.

Fondly, Patti Rivera  
USACE, Qalaa House APO, AE 09356

CHURCH OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD

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